

Appl. No. 09/731,481
Response to March 29, 2004 Office action

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Office for the indication on page 10, section 4, of the Office Action that claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 17-19, 26, 29, 30, 31, 34, 36, 38, and 39 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to place the pending claims into condition for allowance. Claims 1-42 were originally pending. Please amend claims 2, 4-7, 10-11, 14-15, 18-20, 22-24, 26-27, 30-32, 36, and 39-40. Please cancel claims 1, 3, 12, 13, 21, 25, 33-35, 37-38, and 41-42 without prejudice. No claims are added. Accordingly, 2, 4-11, 14-20, 22-24, 26-32, 36, and 39-40 remain pending. With respect to the claim amendments, claims 5, 6, 14, 18, 26, 36, and 39 were amended as suggested by the Examiner to include the features of a respective base claim and any intervening claims. Other pending claims were amended to depend from these allowable base claims.

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Conclusion

The pending claims are in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested. Should any issue remain that prevents allowance of the application, the Office is encouraged to contact the undersigned prior or issuance of a subsequent Office Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 6/15/04

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